

Message Text

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SUBJ: UPDATED NARCOTICS COUNTRY PAPER

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1. MISSION HAS UPDATED THE NARCOTICS COUNTRY PAPER TO REFLECT
RECENT CHANGES IN NARCOTIS SITUATION IN ITALY.

2. BEGIN TEXT.

1. ILLICIT DRUG PROBLEM

- ASIAN HEROIN HAS BECOME INCREASINGLY AVAILABLE FOR LOCAL
CONSUMPTION IN ITALY OVER THE PAST THREE YEARS. TH BULK OF
THIS HEROIN ARRIVES FROM AMMSTERDAM. IN ADDITION,DURING THE
PAST YEAR A SIGNIFICANT AMOUNT OF HEROIN HAS TRANSITTED THE
ROME AIRPORT EN ROUTE TO AMSTERDAM FOR DISTRIBUTION TO EUROPEAN
MARKETS. AND THERE IS RECENT EVIDENCE, DOCUMENTED THROUGH
SEIZURES, THAT ITALY HAS ONCE AGAIN BECOME A SOURCE FOR HEROIN
DESTINED FOR THE UNITED STATES.

-SUBSTANTIAL GROWTH IN HARD DRUG ABUSE HAS OCCURRED PN ITALY
IN RECENT YEARS, REACHINGSERIOUS PROPORTIONS IN SOME URBAN
AREAS. USE OF HEROIN HAS CONSIDERABLY INCREASED, ALONGSIDE
CONTINUING SIGNIFICANT USE OF COCAINE, AND HASHISH. U.S.
MILITARY FORCES IN ITALY ARE NOT BELIEVED TO HAVE A HARD DRUG
PROBLEM.

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2. DURG CONTROL EFFORTS

-MORE RIGID CONTROLS, TO STEM THE INTERNATIONAL FLOW OF DRUGS,
ARE BEING ESTABLISHED AT THE ROME AIRPORT BY THE ITALIAN POLICE.

- UNDER THE NEW DRUG LAW PASSED IN 1975 POSSESSION OF
NARCOTICS FOR PERSONAL USE WAS DECRIMINALIZED, WHILE PENALTIES
FOR MAJOR TRAFFICKING WERE INCREASED TO A MAXIMUM OF EIGHT TO

TWENTY YEARS IMPRISONMENT. ENFORCEMENT IS DIVIDED AMONG THREE POLICE SERVICES: PUBLIC SECURITY (URBAN POLICE), CARABINIERI (POLICE ELEMENTS OF THE ARMY, SUBORDINATE TO THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR IN PEACETIME), AND THE FINANCE GUARD (TRIBUTARY POLICE/ ANTI-SMUGGLING CORPS). IN 1976 A NEW UNIT WAS ESTABLISHED TO COORDINATE ENFORCEMENT EFFORTS AMONG THE SEVERAL ITALIAN POLICE AGENCIES, AND ADDITIONAL MEASURES ARE BEING CONSIDERED TO ENHANCE ITALIAN COOPERATION WITH FOREIGN ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES.

- REHABILITATION RATHER THAN PUNISHMENT IS EMPHASIZED IN DEALING WITH DRUG USERS. HOWEVER, THE SETTING UP OF REHABILITATION CENTERS HAS LAGGED FAR BEHIND THE GROWTH IN DRUG USE.

- THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT HAS SUPPORTED ALL IMPORTANT INITIATIVES TO STRENGTHEN INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS CONTROLS. ITALIAN POLICE COOPERATE WITH INTERPOL AND WITH FOREIGN ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITIES. THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT HAS NOT APPROVED THE PSYCHOTROPIC CONVENTION BUT HAS RATIFIED THE AMENDING PROTOCOL TO THE SINGLE CONVENTION.

3. U.S. PROGRAMS

- OUR GOALS ARE TO HELP IN INTERDICTION OF THE TRAFFIC IN DRUGS, PRIMARILY HEROIN, THAT EITHER ORIGINATES IN OR TRANSITS ITALY AND TO ASSIST THE ITALIAN AUTHORITIES IN THE CONTAINMENT OF DRUG ABUSE. OUR GOALS CAN ONLY BE ACHIEVED IN COOPERATION WITH THE ITALIAN AUTHORITIES AND UNDER THEIR LEADERSHIP AND CONTROL. WE HAVE BEEN WORKING THROUGH DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS TO ENCOURAGE GREATER ITALIAN OFFICIAL ACTION IN DEALING WITH DRUG

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PROBLEMS. WE ARE ESPECIALLY INTERESTED IN A MORE COORDINATED ENFORCEMENT EFFORT, BETTER BORDER CONTROL AND EXPANDED INTELLIGENCE EFFORT.

- DEA REPRESENTATIVES STATIONED AT THE EMBASSY IN ROME AND IN MILAN CONTINUE THEIR LIAISON, EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION AND TRAINING FOR ITALIAN ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS. SIGNIFICANT SEIZURES OF HARD DRUGS AND TRAFFICKING IN ITALY HAVE COME ABOUT THROUGH THE U.S. COOPERATIVE EFFORT WITH ITALIAN POLICE AUTHORITIES.

- NIDA PARTICIPATED IN AN IMPORTANT CONFERENCE ON DRUG ABUSE IN ITALY IN 1977. A WORLD CONFERENCE ON THERAPEUTIC COMMUNITIES FOR DRUG ABUSERS WILL BE HELD IN ROME IN 1978. UNDER AN AGREEMENT SIGNED BY HEW AND MINHEALTH IN NOVEMBER 1977, BILATERAL COOPERATION ON TREATMENT AND REHABILITATION OF DRUG ABUSERS WILL INCREASE IN THE FUTURE. HOLMES

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